

# SENATE, No. 3792

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY 218th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MAY 20, 2019

**Sponsored by:**

**Senator BOB SMITH**

**District 17 (Middlesex and Somerset)**

**Senator KRISTIN M. CORRADO**

**District 40 (Bergen, Essex, Morris and Passaic)**

**SYNOPSIS**

Directs DEP to adopt regulations concerning identification and testing of microplastics in drinking water.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



1 AN ACT concerning the identification and testing of microplastics in  
2 drinking water and supplementing P.L.1977, c.224 (C.58:12A-1  
3 et seq.).  
4

5 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*  
6 *of New Jersey:*  
7

8 1. The Drinking Water Quality Institute established pursuant to  
9 section 10 of P.L.1983, c.443 (C.58:12A-20) shall study the issue of  
10 microplastics in drinking water and, within two years after the  
11 effective date of this act, recommend to the Department of  
12 Environmental Protection a definition of microplastics in drinking  
13 water.  
14

15 2. No later than three years after the effective date of this act,  
16 the Department of Environmental Protection shall:

17 a. Adopt a standard methodology to be used in the testing of  
18 drinking water for microplastics;

19 b. Adopt requirements for four years of testing and reporting  
20 the concentration of microplastics in drinking water by public water  
21 systems, including public disclosure of test results; and

22 c. Accredit qualified laboratories in New Jersey to analyze  
23 microplastics.  
24

25 3. The Department of Environmental Protection may adopt  
26 rules and regulations pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure  
27 Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), to implement the  
28 provisions of this act.  
29

30 4. This act shall take effect immediately.  
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### 33 STATEMENT

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35 This bill requires the Drinking Water Quality Institute (DWQI)  
36 to study the issue of microplastics in drinking water. It also  
37 requires the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to  
38 adopt regulations related to the sampling and testing for the  
39 presence of microplastics in drinking water by public water  
40 systems.

41 The bill directs the DWQI to recommend a definition of  
42 microplastics in drinking water within two years after the enactment  
43 date. The bill also directs the DEP, within three years after the  
44 enactment date, to adopt a standard methodology to be used in the  
45 testing of drinking water for microplastics, to formulate  
46 requirements for testing and reporting the concentration of  
47 microplastics in drinking water by public water systems, and to

1   accredit qualified laboratories in New Jersey to analyze  
2   microplastics.

3       In a recent study of drinking water in the United States, 94  
4   percent of the samples contained microplastics, including a sample  
5   collected from the United States Environmental Protection Agency  
6   headquarters. Microplastics may absorb contaminants from the  
7   surrounding environment, such as harmful bacteria found in  
8   wastewater treatment plants. Microplastics also may contain  
9   chemicals left over from the manufacturing process.